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FORM NO. 51-44A
FEB 1952

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CLASSIFICATION **CONFIDENTIAL** CONTROL - U.S. OFFICIALS ONLY
SECURITY INFORMATION**INFORMATION REPORT**REPORT NO. 25X1

CD NO.

COUNTRY Yugoslavia

DATE DISTR. 29 May 1952

25X1 SUBJECT Criticisms of Edvard Kocbek's Book by
the Yugoslav Communist Party

NO. OF PAGES 2

NO. OF ENCLS.
(LISTED BELOW)SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

25X1

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1. A great furor has been raised in official Titoist circles and among the Slovene population in Slovenia and Trieste, as a result of the publication of a book entitled Med Pogumom in Strakom (Between Courage and Fear). This book is a collection of short stories drawn from partisan activities during the war, written by Edvard Kocbek, Vice-President of the Presidium of the National Assembly, Republic of Slovenia.¹ This book, circulated widely in Slovenia, has aroused much interest in Slovene circles because it expounds a view of the partisan struggle by an official of the Republic of Slovenia which has not been previously expressed.
2. Kocbek bluntly noted in his book what he considered to be the good points as well as the many errors and defects in the partisan movement. He stressed in particular the infringements of the basic rights of Man during the war in Yugoslavia. Among other things, Kocbek pointedly criticized the activities of partisan political commissars during the war. He described many of them as being without scruples and capable of ordering the death of a person without any consideration of the legal or moral aspects of the case. The book, according to the author, attempts to defend the basic rights of Man and is characterized by a spirit of Christian humanism.
3. Before its publication, the book received flattering reviews by several Yugoslav critics, including one written by Boris Pahor in Primorski Dnevnik.² Since its publication, however, the book has been severely criticized by reviewers in various Yugoslav literary journals. As an example, Tone Fajfar³ prepared a review, published in Ljudska Pravica, in which he contradicted Kocbek's views and condemned the book as dangerous and defamatory to the entire partisan movement.
4. On 11 January 1952, on the occasion of a public celebration in Ljubljana, the Minister of Public Health, Dr. Joze Petroc,⁴ made a speech attacking Kocbek's book, without mentioning his name. He criticized the book as an

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expression of decadent Christian and bourgeois humanism which he said, should be countered by "new Communist humanism".

5. In mid-January 1952, Boris Pahor was forbidden by Branko Babic, leader of the pro-Tito Communist Party in Trieste, to respond in Primorski Dnevnik to the attacks made by Yugoslav writers against his favorable review of Kocbek's book. Afterwards, Pahor was heard to comment that he would prepare a rebuttal in any case and forward it privately to his critics.
6. Kocbek, who [] was a Christian Socialist by conviction, stated that Boris Kidric took the lead in a Party meeting in unleashing a vitriolic criticism against the book after its publication. Immediately thereafter, the Party Agit-Prop directed reviewers to follow Kidric's example in denouncing the book.
7. Kocbek stated that the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Slovenia ordered Dr. Josip Vidmar, President of the Presidium of the National Assembly for Slovenia, to take note that the Committee considered Kocbek's book to be contrary to Party literature and to guide himself accordingly. Vidmar was singled out by the Central Committee because the Committee was aware that Vidmar helped edit the book informally and made some minor changes prior to its publication.
8. According to Kocbek, Boris Kidric and Edvard Kardelj are the Yugoslav leaders who command and control the administration and development of policy in the Republic of Slovenia.
 1. [] Comment: For previous information on this book and Dr. Kocbek []
 2. [] 25X1
 3. [] Comment: Tone Fajfar is a Minister of Labor in the Government of the Republic of Slovenia and member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party, Republic of Slovenia.
 4. [] Comment: Dr. Joze Potrc is Minister-President of the Council for Public Health and Social Security in the Government of the Republic of Slovenia and member of the Central Committee of the Republic of Slovenia.

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